





*Just Published, Price One Shilling,*

A DIALOGUE

BETWEEN A BILIOUS PATIENT

AND

A PHYSICIAN.

BY JAMES HENRY, M.D.

FELLOW OF THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, DUBLIN.

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“ The author has been informed that some readers of the *Dialogue between a Bilious Patient and a Physician* have ascribed to him the intention of depreciating medicines and the art of medicine. He therefore takes the opportunity afforded by the publication of a new edition, to state that nothing could be further from his mind than such an intention, and that in the *Dialogue between a Bilious Patient and a Physician* he has no other object in view, than to show that the habitual use of purgatives is injurious to health, and that the diseases commonly denominated nervous and bilious cannot be cured by those medicines, nor indeed by any medicines whatever, but solely by avoiding the causes from which those diseases spring. The author hopes that this object is not inconsistent with a high respect for medical science, and a full conviction of the usefulness of purgative medicines, when skilfully applied in those cases of disease in which it is proper to apply them ; and he feels assured, that in attempting to correct, as far as in

his power, a great medical abuse, he is doing that which not only will not diminish, but, on the contrary, will increase and promote a rational confidence in the healing art; that rational confidence both in medicines and medical advice, which, so far as the author has observed, is always entertained by well informed persons, and which is equally remote from the blind faith which ascribes almost miraculous power to medicine, and from the suspicious scepticism which denies it all power whatever.

“Another objection has been made to the *Dialogues between a Bilious Patient and a Physician*.—It has been said, that the author should have used a less popular form of writing, and that he should have addressed himself to physicians, not to the public. To this objection the author replies that it was necessary to use popular language, and to address himself to the public, because the abuse which he sought to correct, although originating in the first instance with physicians, had spread from them to the public, and had become popular, and therefore could not be corrected through the medium of a treatise written in technical language and addressed to physicians.

“The author begs to add, that this edition does not materially differ from the former, the alterations which have been made consisting only of a few verbal corrections.—*Preface to the Second Edition.*



